

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 03-12-23**

Date Published: December 18, 2003
For Work Week Commencing: December 22, 2003
Commission Meeting: December 23, 2003, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Steve Vick at (406) 444-6187. He may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling (Commission Conference Room)

9:30 a.m. Business (Bollinger Room)

Public Comments

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. N2003.12.167 (Leroy)

On December 4, 2003, Valley Telecommunications submitted revised tariffs reducing the monthly toll restriction rates to \$0.85. Previous monthly rates were between \$1.50 and \$5.00. The revised tariff adds a definition for Toll Restriction and clarifies the Terms and Conditions. Toll restriction will be provided at no charge to qualifying low income subscribers, as well as company initiated toll restriction. The tariff deletes the Direct Distance Dialing description since that service is included in the Full Toll Restriction descriptions. Staff recommends approval.

2. PROJECT TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY N2003.12.168 (Leroy)

On December 4, 2003, Project Telephone Company submitted revised tariffs reducing the monthly toll restriction rates to \$0.85. Previous monthly rates were between \$1.50 and \$5.00. The revised tariff adds a definition for Toll Restriction and clarifies the Terms and Conditions. Toll restriction will be provided at no charge to qualifying low income subscribers, as well as company initiated toll restriction. The tariff deletes the Direct Distance Dialing description since that service is included in the Full Toll Restriction descriptions. Staff recommends approval.

3. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P. MONTANA N2003.12.171 (Leroy)

On December 9, 2003, Sprint Communications filed changes in its current price list reflected on the 207th Revised page 1. The purpose of the filing is to introduce Sprint Business Flex with All Calls All Day III and IV, make miscellaneous text changes and reduce FONCARD Surcharge for Sprint Business Flex with All Calls All Day V, VI, and VII. Sprint is requesting an effective date of December 16, 2003. Staff recommends approval.

4. Sprint Communications N2003.12.169 (Scott)

On December 5, 2003, Sprint filed changes to its price List No. 1. The purpose of this filing is to make changes to the terms and conditions for Dial-1 WATS.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. D2003.12.170 – Western Montana Local Calling Coalition – Application for EAS. (12/23/03)
2. D2003.12.165 – Energy West - Property Tax Tracker. (12/23/03)
3. D2003.10.151 – PSC – Gas Supply Acquisition NOI. (12/23/03)
4. D2003.8.109 - Montana Consumer Counsel – NorthWestern Energy Financial Investigation. (12/23/03)
5. NorthWestern Energy Bankruptcy - Placeholder to Get Direction on Any Matter Related to the Bankruptcy. (12/23/03)

Other Meetings

Weekly Scheduling – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission Meeting

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2003.12.172 – Montana-Dakota Utilities – Application to Implement a Gas Cost Tracking Adjustment

D2003.12.173 – Wilder Resorts dba Fairmont Hot Springs – Application for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for Sewer Services

D2003.12.174 – Northwestern Energy – Electric Supply Procurement between Basin Creek Power Services, LLC and NorthWestern Energy

D2003.7.93 – Energy West – Monthly Gas Cost Tracking Adjustment for January 1, 2004

D2003.7.97 – NorthWestern Energy – January 1, 2004 Monthly Natural Gas Cost Rate Adjustment

D2003.8.115 – NorthWestern Energy – January 1, 2004 Monthly Electric Default Supply Cost Rate Adjustment